

# Border Eagle

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Dec. 5, 2003

## XLers help clean up Seminole Cemetery

By 2nd Lt. Sheila Johnston  
*Public affairs*

A group of Laughlin XLers and members of 19th Air Force in San Antonio combined efforts Nov. 14 to clean up the Seminole Indian Scout Cemetery near Brackettville.

Individuals from both organizations volunteered their time, lawn equipment and gardening expertise to groom the small memorial cemetery, the resting place of four Medal of Honor recipients.

The Seminole Indian Scouts Association maintains the cemetery. This association is a private organization of scout descendants and was

See Cemetery, page 4



Photo by 2nd Lt. Sheila Johnston

**Senior Master Sgt. Bruce Hoch, 47th Communications Squadron supervisor of information systems flight, sweeps a grave stone at the Seminole Indian Scout Cemetery near Brackettville Nov. 14.**

## Angel trees help give joy to less fortunate

By Airman 1st Class  
Yvonne Clark  
*Staff writer*

As part of the Enlisted Spouses Club's Angel Tree program, base people have the opportunity to provide gifts to the less-fortunate children and elderly in the community through Dec. 15.

Three Angel Trees, located in the base exchange, chapel and library, are decorated with ornaments listing the names, genders and "wish lists" of underprivileged individuals in the community.

Alma McCrary, ESC president, said the trees were placed in various locations to promote more base participation.

"[It provides] an opportunity and the convenience for a variety of people to contribute to the program," she said.

Of the 160 ornaments on the three trees, the base library tree carries 20 requests for age-appropriate books to support those with the St. Henry De Oso Family Literacy Project. The base exchange and chapel request various items such as toys and clothing to support those with the Amistad Family Violence and Rape Crisis Center, the Roswell Center and other underprivileged children in the community.

Juanita Wright, ESC coordinator, said she has helped with the Angel Tree program before and believes it is a great program.

"It provides a venue of outreach for base personnel to be able to help,"

she said. "It [helps] spread the joy of the holidays and brighten a day by showing someone cares."

Although each ornament provides a wish list of items, people are asked to fill the request with only one of the items on the ornament.

"People may buy more gifts if they choose to, but we ask that they pick up other ornaments to ensure others receive gifts as well," said Mrs. Wright.

While Laughlin met its goal last year, filling 210 gift requests, Mrs. McCrary said she hopes base people can help make that happen again.

"We hope we can promote community goodwill and provide for those who may not otherwise receive gifts this year," she said.

### Newslines

#### Memorial service set

A memorial service for Staff Sgt. Derek Smith, 47th Aeromedical-Dental Squadron immunizations technician, will be held at 10 a.m. Wednesday at the base chapel.

#### Clinic closure scheduled

The Laughlin Clinic will be closed from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Wednesday for the memorial service. The Tricare Service Center will remain open. For medical emergencies, call 911 or report to Val Verde Regional Medical Center. For other care, call (800) 406-2832.

#### Holiday party, tree lighting set

The holiday tree lighting and children's holiday party is set for Wednesday. Col. Keith Traster, 47th Flying Training Wing vice commander, will perform the tree lighting event at the base chapel at 5 p.m. Singing will follow as Santa Claus makes his appearance on a fire truck en route to Club XL for the wing's children's holiday party at 5:30 p.m.

For information, see page 16 or call the base chapel at 298-5111.

#### Cookie caper needs help

Anyone interested in helping the Command Officers Spouses Group bag and deliver cookies to Laughlin dormitory residents can meet in the chapel's Fellowship Hall at 8 a.m. today.

### Deployment stats

Deployed	Returning 30 days	Deploying 30 days
49	4	1

### Mission status

(As of Nov. 26)

Airframe	Days behind or ahead	Mission Capable Rate
T-37	-2.12	89.2%
T-1	3.72	83.4%
T-38	0.41	78.1%
T-6	0.88	89.9%

# Team XL hustles while practicing ORM principles

## Commander's Corner

By Charles Berndt  
T-38 Aircraft Maintenance Division chief

I have been a part of Team XL since May and have noticed one thing since my assignment here: This team hustles! I see the team hustle up and down the flight line every day as the third busiest airport in the country trains our future Air Force pilots.

I see it in the number of facilities being constructed and renovated to improve the quality of life at Laughlin, such as the new base fitness center, the renovated flight shacks for our flight line personnel and the new paint facility.

This team demonstrates its hustle every time a dignitary chooses to visit our little corner of Texas, an occurrence that happens quite frequently considering our distance from a

major city. I haven't heard of a dignitary yet who hasn't left here impressed by what we do.

The aggressive, positive way the team interacts with the local community, the incredible amount of sorties we produce daily and the expansive forthcoming ramp construction project all radiate the hustle and desire to improve and succeed as this team has. As far as I have seen in my career, no one does it better.

It is going to become even busier after the New Year. The ramp construction projects will continue, additional aircraft sunshades will be built, the drawdown of the T-37 and buildup of the T-6 fleet will continue, and the forthcoming addition of the newly upgraded T-38C model will begin. Team XL is a busy place!

In the meantime, however, the holiday season is fast approaching, and with that comes time for Team XLers to slow down, take a breath and spend quality time with family, friends and loved ones – a time for each of us to reflect on the accomplishments and lessons learned from the previous year. It also is a time for parties, colder temperatures, worse weather, longer commutes and

shorter days.

Wing leadership wants Team XL to have another successful year. In order for that to happen, we need each and every one of you to return to us after the holidays ready, willing and able to contribute your part to the successful completion of the team's mission.

You have been exposed to the basics of operational risk management; please take the time while with family or friends to apply basic ORM principles to your particular circumstance.

For example: Should I try and drive that 18-hour trip to mom's house in one day, or should I take two days and enjoy the sights along the way and arrive at my destination fresh instead of worn out? Should I plug that additional string of Christmas lights into the extension cord or should I get another cord?

You get the picture ... Please think before you act. Utilize the training you have been given to guarantee your continued contributions to Team XL's effort.

We need you back in whole Team XLers, so we can all have yet another productive, busy and successful year. Happy holidays!

## How many tools are in your toolbox?

By 1st Lt. Kendra Lowe  
47th Mission Support Squadron  
base sponsorship officer in  
charge

My wise husband has always told me a person can never have too many tools. I had to disagree when he claimed he needed a new table saw for the house, but when it comes to

leadership tools he is right on!

To add to our leadership toolboxes, lieutenants in the 47th Mission Support Group attended an offsite at the Air Force Marina Nov. 18.

The day was set up in three unique symposiums led by Col. Vic Hnatiuk, 47th MSG commander; Lt. Col. Jennifer Graham, 47th Mission Support

Squadron commander; and Maj. Michael Claffey, 47th Contracting Squadron commander. The offsite focused primarily on how to motivate your troops, make challenging decisions and learn from good and bad leaders.

It was extremely interesting to hear numerous leadership experiences and perspectives from our peers and superiors.

Most of us were amazed by the similar situations we have all been through at one point or another, and somewhat comforted that we were not alone in our demanding quest for excellent leadership.

It was a privilege for us to spend the day with successful leaders in the Air Force and have them take time, a most precious commodity of our commanders,

See **Toolbox**, page 3

## Border Eagle

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### Deadlines, Advertising

News for the Border Eagle should be submitted to the 47th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 338, Laughlin AFB, TX, 298-5262. **Copy deadline is close of business each Thursday the week prior to publication.**

Advertising should be submitted to the Del Rio News-Herald, 2205 Bedell, Del Rio, TX, 774-4611. Advertising should be submitted by 4 p.m. each Friday.

Submissions can be e-mailed to: **timothy.stein@laughlin.af.mil** or **yvonne.clark@laughlin.af.mil**.



Taking care of family means getting affairs in order

By 2nd Lt. Amber Millerchip  
Air Education and Training  
Command public affairs

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE – When I was 12 years old my grandmother sat me on her lap and told me my mother had been killed in a car accident. She was only 40, and my brother, stepfather and I never saw it coming. Nor did we expect the chaos and disarray that followed. It didn’t take long to understand my mother hadn’t prepared for this either. Nothing was in order: no will, no life insurance, and no guidance on what to do with her belongings or ourselves. As a result, we didn’t just lose our mother that day, we lost our home, our friends, our pets and everything we had known. Unfortunately, my situation isn’t all that uncommon. Many people do not take the time to prepare for the unexpected, and the consequences to their families can last a lifetime. When a death occurs, the sorrow and grief are overwhelming, and any additional stress can exaggerate these feelings. That’s why it’s so important to have all your personal and financial affairs in order. As someone described it to me, it’s your last

gift of love to your family and, more importantly, it helps them start their journey of dealing with their loss. Legal and living wills, Serviceman’s Group Life Insurance and the Virtual Record of Emergency Data, or vRed, are four resources all airmen should be familiar with. A legal will ensures your things are distributed according to your desires and identifies who will assume custody of minors. Prior to my mother’s death, my brother and I never discussed with our mom whom we preferred to live with. Fortunately, my father, an Air Force pilot, moved us to live with him, his wife and their child. As to my mother’s assets, I remember going around the house asking my stepfather for those things that really reminded me of her – a picture, a ceramic elephant, a piece of jewelry. Sadly, since there was no will, the rest of her legacy went to him and later to his daughter. In addition to the will, Capt. Marc Banjak, chief of legal assistance and preventive law at the 12th Flying Training Wing here, encourages servicemembers to write down their wishes, including burial

arrangements, and communicate these with their executor or personal representative. A living will is another important resource. It provides instructions to your health care provider as to what you want done in the event you become incapacitated and have a terminal condition. These written health desires also may prevent family arguments by relieving loved ones from having to make difficult life or death decisions on your behalf. The other two resources vital to a family’s welfare are SGLI and vRed. All servicemembers are automatically covered under SGLI for \$250,000, the maximum coverage available. Spouses and children also are automatically covered when the member carries Family SGLI. Maximum coverage is \$100,000 for a spouse and \$10,000 for a child. Some servicemembers elect not to take the SGLI, and in several cases family members suffered from this decision, according to Capt. Yancey Cowen, chief of the casualty services branch at the Air Force Personnel Center. A recent case involved an active-duty member whose death was ruled a suicide. The individual declined SGLI in favor of

private insurance that included a suicide clause. Since the member had no SGLI and the death fell within the suicide clause window, his widow and his two children were denied any benefits from the private insurance. Captain Cowen said one important thing to remember is to make sure SGLI beneficiaries are always current. For instance, if someone gets a divorce then remarries, they must make sure the new spouse is the beneficiary versus the ex-spouse. He also said it’s important to keep vRed up to date in order to notify families quickly and ensure proper entitlements are received. “There is never an excuse to not have it updated,” said Scott Hand, AFPC chief of casualty operations. “The impact is on the family, and every time someone passes away, we have to assume (the vRED) is correct. We don’t know if it’s right or wrong until we get to the door.” Speaking from personal experience with my mother’s unexpected death and the unnecessary heartache my family suffered, I urge you to act immediately and make this your number one New Year’s resolution. The only day to do it is today. Tomorrow may be too late.

Toolbox, from page 2

to help develop the upcoming leaders of the U.S. Air Force. To say the day was a success would not

be giving it the due credit it deserves. Not only did every lieutenant walk away with a new leadership tool, but more importantly, we were able to meet new lieutenants across the mission support group who will inevitably

aid in the daily tasks and challenges we face. So look out Laughlin, the 47th MSG lieutenants are geared up and ready to take on anything!



**Actionline**  
**298-5351**

**Col. Dan Woodward**  
*47th Flying Training Wing commander*

This column is one way to work through problems that haven't been

solved through normal channels. By leaving your name and phone number, you are assured of a timely personal reply. It's also very useful in case more information is needed in order to pursue your inquiry. If you give your name, we will make every attempt to ensure confidentiality when appropriate. If your question relates to the general interest of the people of Laughlin, the question and answer may also be printed in the Border Eagle. Before you call the Actionline, please try to work the problem out through the normal chain of command or directly with the base agency involved. Thanks for your cooperation, and I look forward to reading some quality ideas and suggestions. Below are some useful telephone numbers that may be helpful when working your issue with a base agency.

**AAFES** 298-3176  
**Accounting and Finance** 298-5204  
**Civil Engineer** 298-5252  
**Civilian Personnel** 298-5299

**Clinic** 298-6311  
**Commissary** 298-5815  
**Dormitory manager** 298-5213  
**EEO** 298-5879  
**FWA hotline** 298-4170  
**Housing** 298-5904  
**Information line** 298-5201  
**Legal** 298-5172  
**MEO** 298-5400  
**Military Personnel** 298-5073  
**Public Affairs** 298-5988  
**Security Forces** 298-5900  
**Services** 298-5810

## Newslines

### Family Support Center to close

The Family Support Center will be closed for training from noon to 4:30 p.m. today. It will return to its regular duty hours Monday.

Anyone needing Air Force Aid assistance can call 703-0720.

### Retirement ceremony set

A retirement ceremony for Master Sgt. John Bock, 47th Operations Group first sergeant, is set for 1 p.m. Dec. 12 at Club Amistad. A reception will follow. All base members are invited to attend.

For more information, call 298-5136.

### Pay statements available online

Military members can now download their leave and earnings statements from the MyPay Web site at <https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.asp>.

While providing convenience to the customer, downloading LESs instead of having them mailed also saves the military money.

Members not already signed up can receive a pin number from finance.

For more information, call 298-5203.

### Promotion ceremony set

An enlisted promotion ceremony is set for 4 p.m. Dec. 18 at Club Amistad.

All base members are invited to attend.

### Speaker to address safety

The Laughin safety office is providing training by a top motivational safety speaker Dec. 19 in Anderson Hall auditorium. There will be presentations at 9 a.m., 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. It is highly recommended all military and civilian members attend one of the sessions.

For details, call 298-5681.

### Airman's Attic is open

The Airman's Attic is open from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesdays in building 360 next to the base gym.

Base members may obtain referrals from unit first sergeants to use the attic. Donations are welcome.

For more information, call 298-1251.

## Civilians earn their 'stripes' at NCO academy

By Geoff Janes  
Warner Robins Air Logistics  
Center Public Affairs

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. – The noncommissioned officers academy here is one of two Air Force test sites allowing civilians to learn the ropes of leadership by working side by side with enlisted airmen.

Robins and Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M., are part of a yearlong trial phase that could change the way professional military education is handled in the future, Chief Master Sgt. Orlando Justice, Robins NCOA commandant, said.

“Robins was selected for two reasons – sustained record of excellence at the academy and an environment rich in civilians in leadership positions over enlisted personnel,” he said. “One force, one fight. If that’s the way it’s going to be, then we need to give everyone the same tools to succeed – that’s the premise. But more specifically, it’s just good common sense. If this training is essential for military leaders of enlisted personnel, then it only stands to reason that the civilians in leadership positions need the training, too.”

Paula MacLeod, a contract specialist with the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center contracting directorate, was chosen from a field of her peers here and is scheduled to be the first civilian to graduate from the academy Thursday.

“I think this will be helpful,” she said. “Last week we went over leadership. I had seen it before, but only because I’m working on my master’s degree. Civilian employees don’t get this type of training until they’re at the

GS-12 and 13 level, so the military is kind of ahead of us in that respect.”

The six-week course covers everything from leadership and writing enlisted performance reports to physical conditioning, counseling and drill and ceremony.

Having civilians in the program is a positive move, said Tech. Sgt. Mark Tolston, a fellow student who works in the FA-22 program at Lockheed Martin.

“(MacLeod is) getting training on counseling,” he said. “She’s learning the best way to write (evaluations), and getting some insight into writing bullet statements. If she’s going to be supervising enlisted personnel, it’s good that she’s learning this stuff.”

The benefits go both ways, said Tech. Sgt. Paul Roby, with the 653rd Combat Logistics Support Squadron.

“(MacLeod is) teaching us a whole lot that we wouldn’t be getting if she weren’t in the class as well,” he said. “It’s a real trade-off of information.”

Marisa Quiterio, who works in the nuclear weapons directorate at Kirtland, is reaping the same trade-off of information as Sergeant MacLeod, said Chief Master Sgt. Steve Sargeant, Kirtland NCOA commandant.

“The interaction between the students and civilians is fantastic,” he said. “If it wasn’t for the obvious absence of a uniform, her presence would be transparent.”

“I have to admit it was a bit strange seeing Ms. Quiterio standing in formation during retreat,” he said. “But I also concede she had one of the sharper salutes. I give her a lot of credit, her enthusiasm is unmatched and her determination to experience everything her military counterparts do is

phenomenal. I am proud of her commitment and service.”

Although the education phase is the same, there are some things that are different for the civilians attending the course, Chief Justice said.

“Within the confines of this course there are some things civilians aren’t required to do like physical conditioning, command inspections and drill and ceremony,” he said. “It’s my hope and my expectation that they will voluntarily take on the full experience. She’s doing it all.”

“There were a few minor modifications to in-processing,” Chief Justice said. “The rules for using the fitness center are different for civilians. We also addressed the instructors. We had to adjust our teaching lingo so that it fits both the military and the civilians.”

The program will allow civilians to reap the benefit of world-class leadership and management training as well as gain a tremendous insight on the enlisted corps, Chief Sargeant said.

“I realize this is only the first of seven classes used for the test,” he said. “But if this is any indication of what’s to come, we have a new way of developing our civilian leadership in the future.”

Civilians eligible for acceptance to the academy during the test program include wage supervisors grades 1 to 8, wage-grade employees in grades 9 to 12, wage leaders in grades 1 to 6, and general-service employees in grades 6 to 9. For more information, e-mail Linda Golden at [Linda.golden@robins.af.mil](mailto:Linda.golden@robins.af.mil).

### Cemetery, from page 1

established to honor the history of the Negro Seminole Scouts who fought on the Texas frontier as recently as 1881.

All maintenance is done on a voluntary basis, and declining numbers and ages now limit the ability of the association to maintain the grounds. This provides Laughlin and other military members an opportunity to pay tribute to the Medal of Honor recipients buried there and help this

community organization.

Master Sgt. Sabina Wiener, 47th Mission Support Squadron superintendent for customer support and coordinator for Team XL project volunteers, said there was such a great turnout of volunteers the work went much faster than expected.

In all, 14 Laughlin and seven 19th Air Force volunteers joined efforts to refurbish the cemetery.

Sergeant Wiener said the Top 3 organization here plans to continue the upkeep of the cemetery on an

as-needed basis.

“It gave me a sense of accomplishment and a great feeling knowing we contributed in some way that showed respect to Medal of Honor winners buried there,” Sergeant Wiener said.

She added that without the help of all the volunteers, the project would not have been such a success.

“I just want to say ‘thank you’ to each of the volunteers,” she said. “I appreciate all of the hard work and effort everyone gave.”

# New protection ahead in helmets, body armor

By Donna Miles  
*American Forces Press Service*

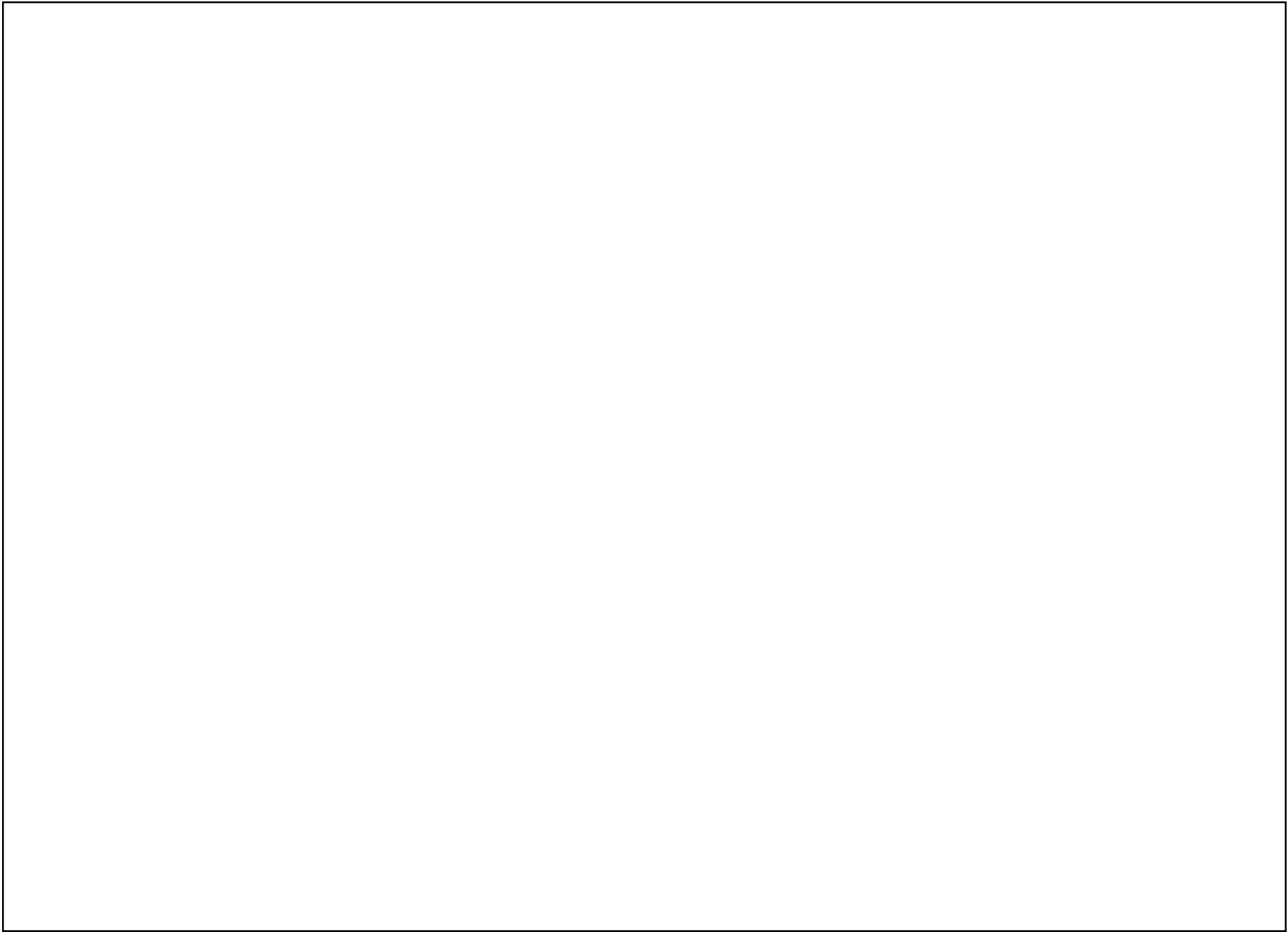
WASHINGTON – New, reinforced helmets and body armor currently being fielded to the military represent just the tip of the iceberg in terms of what is on the drawing board for protecting warfighters of the future. The future fighting force will have far superior protective systems that provide enhanced capabilities while imposing less weight on the user, said officials from U.S. Army Soldier Systems Center at Natick, Mass., who conduct research and product development for all the

military services. Engineers are looking at new materials and composites that offer enhanced protection with less weight, said Robert Kinney, director of Natick’s Individual Protection Directorate. The Marine Corps is fielding a new helmet that offers 6 percent more fragmentation protection and the ability to stop 9 mm rounds, Natick officials said. Looking a decade down the road, warfighters’ helmets are expected to become even more impenetrable to enemy rounds, while offering an array of added protections. The objective force war-

rior program integrates thermal sensors, video cameras and chemical and biological sensors within the helmet. It also includes a visor that can act as a “heads-up display monitor” equivalent to two 17-inch computer monitors in front of the wearer’s eyes, said LeeAnn Barkhouse, a business liaison for the program. The program is a “system of systems” the Army is developing for warfighters in 2010 and beyond, she said. New technology is also improving warfighters’ body-armor systems, Natick officials said. The new Interceptor body-armor system is in wide

use by soldiers and Marines in Afghanistan and Iraq, where it “is saving lives left and right,” Mr. Kinney said. The vest includes two 4-pound inserts that protect the vital organs against 9 mm submachine-gun fire at point-blank range, said Dee Townes, project officer for Natick’s Marine Corps team. The vest includes removable flaps that cover the groin, throat and neck and weighs a little more than 16 pounds, compared to the previous 25-pound body armor. Natick officials are exploring different materials that can provide increased ballistic protection while shedding as many

as 6 more pounds from the vest, Mr. Kinney said. “Sixteen pounds is still too heavy,” he said. “If we can get under 10 pounds, that would more reasonable.” Natick officials also plan to replace the 20-plus layers of Kevlar in the Interceptor vest with a new M-5 fiber that will weight about one-third less, said Dutch DeGay, equipment specialist for the program. “Our goal is to create a protective system that is lower profile, lower bulk and lower weight,” he said. “We want it to be like a second skin, so the warfighter barely even knows that it’s there, but that offers the protections needed in a combat environment.”



## Air Force Television News spotlights terrorism threat of urban warfare

SAN ANTONIO – The terrorist threat of urban warfare and how the Air Force is preparing for it, is highlighted in the latest edition of Air Force Television News. Tech. Sgt. Pachari Lutke goes to Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., to report on training airmen are getting before deploying to places like Iraq and Afghanistan.

Air Force Television News plays at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Monday through Friday on the Laughlin commander's access channel, base cable channel 34.

Staff Sgt. Marty Rush goes to Edwards AFB, Calif., to report on tests being conducted on a new chase aircraft that was originally designed as a trainer for the Czech air force. Meanwhile, Staff Sgt. Tara O'Brien is in northern Germany to chronicle yet another record set by the Global Hawk unmanned aerial ve-

hicle and its potential expanded use by the German air force.

Tech. Sgt. Bill Scherer has a story on how several units at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, are testing the feasibility of personal digital assistants to store and retrieve information necessary for daily base operations. Tech. Sgt. Joy Josephson-Spann is at Scott AFB, Ill., with a story on the use of alternative fuels and the expanded fuel-quality testing.

Staff Sgt. Kevin Dennison reports on resumption of the two glider programs at the U.S. Air Force Academy that were suspended for several months. From Fairchild AFB, Wash., Staff Sgt. April Lawrence examines an anti-bird-strike program that uses plastic balls to discourage birds from alighting.

Navy Journalist Zack Baddorf travels to Nepal to

show how an Air Force doctor is helping his peers in that country keep up with 21st century medical technology. And Sergeant Scherer spends a weekend with an Air National Guardsman from New York State whose military job and the one she has in her private life are worlds apart.

Air Force Television News is a biweekly production of Air Force News Service. It is distributed on videotape to more than 3,000 military and civilian outlets worldwide and is seen on more than 700 cable TV outlets nationwide. It is also available on the Internet at [www.af.mil](http://www.af.mil), and can be seen regularly on The Pentagon Channel. The program is closed captioned. Viewers can comment on the program by sending an e-mail to: [aftvnews@afnews.af.mil](mailto:aftvnews@afnews.af.mil).

*(Courtesy of Air Force Print News)*

## Commissary facts:

Did you know the commissary offers many advantages over shopping elsewhere?

- It offers saving upward of 30 percent over other stores.
- Periodic case lot sales can save the consumer 45 to 50 percent.
- By giving the commissary your e-mail address you can receive Commissary News Letter every month to learn what is on sale.
- Without support, commissaries could become a thing of the past.



**Interested in the Air Force?**

*Call Del Rio's Air Force recruiter at 774-0911.*

# Tax statements available on myPay

ARLINGTON, Va. – Defense Finance and Accounting Service officials have compiled a schedule of dates when servicemembers, military retirees and annuitants and defense civilian employees can access their tax statements through myPay.

Military members and Department of Defense civilian employees will have access to view, save and print their tax statements from myPay at <https://mypay.dfas.mil>.

For assistance, users can call myPay customer support at (800) 390-2348.

MyPay provides a secure method for users to manage their pay account information, officials said. Available around the clock, customers can make changes online, instead of visiting a finance office.

Officials are projecting the tax statements will be posted on myPay during the following periods.

- Military annuitants: Dec. 13 to 18
  - DoD civilians: Dec. 24 to 29
  - Army, Air Force and Navy reserve components: Dec. 26 to Jan. 1
  - Military retirees: Jan. 1 to 5
  - Marine Corps active duty and Reserve: Jan. 13 to 21
  - Army, Air Force and Navy active duty: Jan. 16 to 26
- “During 2003, more than 1.2 million users viewed their tax statements on myPay, and we continue to encour-

age users to view and print their statements online,” said Pat Shine, director of Defense Finance and Accounting Service military and civilian pay services business line. “Timely access to W-2s and other tax statements is another way myPay gives users control of their pay information.”

*(Courtesy of Air Force Print News)*

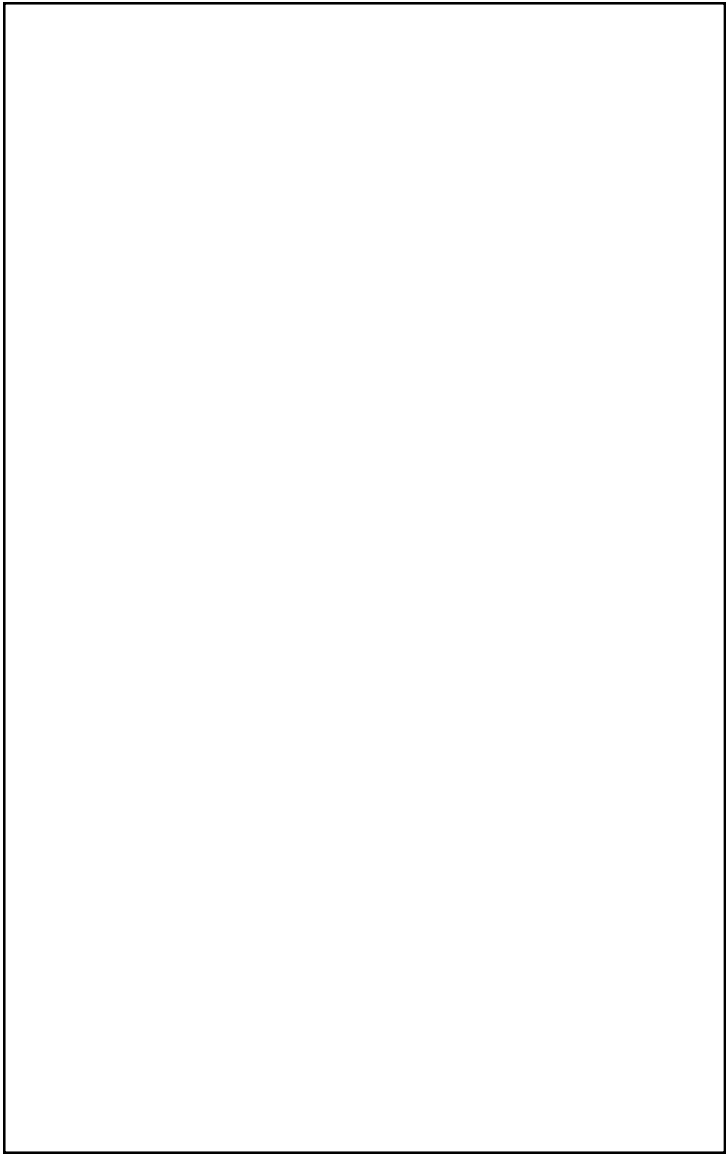
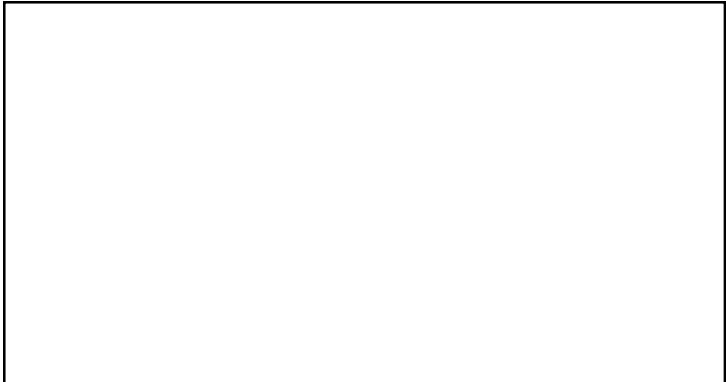
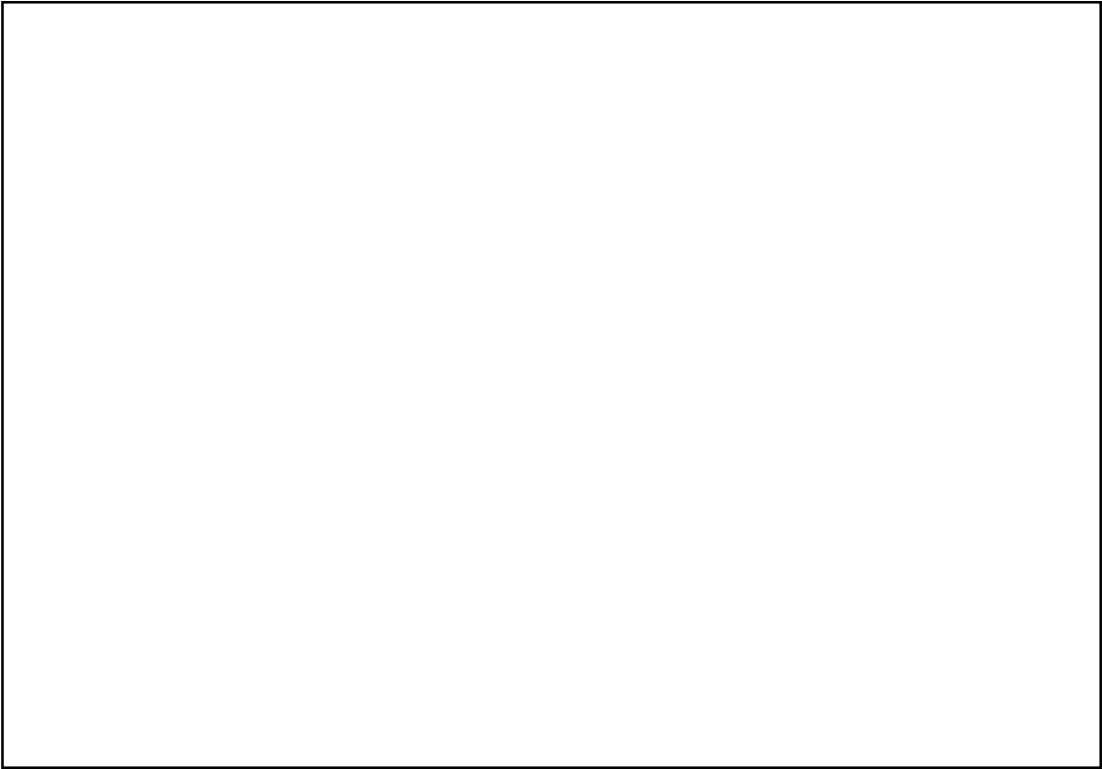


Photo by Staff Sgt. Suzanne Jenkins

**Behind wire...**

A C-5 Galaxy sits on the ramp at Balad Air Base, Iraq, Nov. 27. The runway is large enough to allow the aircraft to use the airfield, which reduces the base’s dependence on ground-vehicle convoys for supplies.





# Bush surprises troops, world with Thanksgiving dinner in Baghdad

By Glen Harper  
*American Forces Press Service*

WASHINGTON – About 600 troops who gathered for Thanksgiving Day dinner in Baghdad, Iraq, had a surprise guest: their commander in chief, President Bush.

Under the security of darkness and tight-lipped staff secrecy, the president arrived in Baghdad on Thanksgiving Day at Baghdad International Airport for a reported two-and-a-half hour visit.

Army Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez, Combined Joint Task Force 7 commander, and L. Paul Bremer, coalition administrator, were just finishing remarks to soldiers of the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment and the 1st Armored and 82nd Airborne divisions and other guests at the start of what was supposed to be a traditional Thanksgiving dinner.

“It says here that I’m supposed to read the president’s Thanksgiving proclamation,” Mr. Bremer said. “But I thought the deal was for the most senior person to read it. Is that you, sir?” Bremer asked, turning to General Sanchez.

“Let’s see if we’ve got anybody more senior here who can read the president’s Thanksgiving speech. Is there anybody back there more senior than us?” the general replied.

On cue, President Bush walked into the area and up to the podium before a stunned crowd of soldiers. They immediately jumped to their feet and hailed him with sustained, thunderous applause and shouts of “hooah.”

“I was just looking for a warm meal somewhere. Thanks for inviting me,” President Bush said.

He acknowledged Iraqi Governing Council members on hand. “We’re pleased you’re joining us for one of our nation’s great holidays, a chance to give thanks to the Almighty for the many blessings we’ve received.” Then to the gathered service members he said, “I can’t think of a finer group of folks to have Thanksgiving dinner with than you all.

“Today Americans are gathering with their loved ones to give thanks



Photo by Tina Hager

**President Bush meets with troops Nov. 27 and serves Thanksgiving dinner at the Bob Hope Dining Facility, Baghdad International Airport, Iraq.**

for the many blessings in our lives. And this year we’re especially thankful for the courage and the sacrifice of those who defend us, the men and women of the United States military,” the president said. “I bring a message on behalf of America: We thank you for your service. We’re proud of you, and America stands solidly behind you.

“Together you and I have taken an oath to defend our country,” the commander in chief told the troops. “You’re honoring that oath. The United States military is doing a fantastic job.”

He said that U.S. troops were on duty in Iraq “so that we don’t have to face them in our own country.”

“You’re defeating Saddam’s henchmen so that the people of Iraq can live in peace and freedom. By helping the Iraqi people become free, you’re helping change a troubled and violent part of the world. By helping to build a peaceful and democratic country in the heart of the Middle East, you are defending the American people from danger, and we are grateful.”

He recognized that the troops’ engagement in a difficult mission.

“Those who attack our coalition forces and kill innocent Iraqis are testing our will,” Bush said.

“They hope we will run. We did not charge hundreds of miles into the heart of Iraq, pay a bitter cost in casualties, defeat a brutal dictator and liberate 25 million people only to retreat before a band of thugs and assassins,” he said to raucous, sustained whoops of approval from the service members.

“We will prevail,” Bush promised. “We will win because our cause is just. We will win because we will stay on the offensive. And we will win because you’re part of the finest military ever assembled. And we will prevail because the Iraqis want their freedom.”

President Bush, in a first-ever U.S. presidential visit to Iraq, also brought a message to the Iraqi people. “You have an opportunity to seize the moment and rebuild your great country, based on human dignity and freedom. The regime of Saddam Hussein is gone forever,” he declared.

He said the United States and its coalition partners would continue helping the Iraqi people build a peace-

ful country for a bright future for its children. “We’ll help you find and bring to justice the people who terrorized you for years and are still killing innocent Iraqis. We will stay until the job is done,” he said, again to long, thunderous approval from the troops. “I’m confident we will succeed, because you, the Iraqi people, will show the world that you’re not only courageous, but that you can govern yourself wisely and justly.”

President Bush also said each service member had answered “a great call, participating in an historic moment in world history. You live by a code of honor, of service to your nation, with the safety and the security of your fellow citizens. Our military is full of the finest people on the face of the earth.”

The president then made his way through the crowd of delighted service members, shaking hands, and talking and posing for photos with several them. He reportedly served food to the troops and ate. He boarded Air Force One and was headed back toward the U.S. at 8 p.m. Baghdad time.



Please recycle this newspaper

Air Force band musical goes Hollywood

By Airman 1st Class  
Alex Saltekoff  
11th Wing Public Affairs

HOLLYWOOD, Calif. – The U.S. Air Force Band from Bolling Air Force Base, D.C., performed its musical “Born of a Dream” before full houses Nov. 18 to 20 at the Kodak Theatre here.

All of the 2,500 free seats were reserved before the start of the first performance. The band’s final performance Nov. 20 was a private show for the annual Gathering of Eagles, which honors several veterans of aviation.

The Kodak Theatre, where the Academy Awards are held annually, housed the band’s first Broadway-class musical celebrating 100 years of powered flight.

“Born of a Dream” was written by and starred band airmen. The musical followed Tech. Sgt. Steve Wilson as news reporter “Scott Gibson” during his travels to the fictitious town of Wrightsville to cover a Centennial of Flight celebration.

In the musical, Gibson met several people and ultimately learned the value of flight. Songs in the production reflected the history of flight and offered several selections from various genres of music. “The Greatest” was a jazzy, 1940s-style song



Photo by Airman 1st Class Alex Saltekoff

**Master Sgts. Linda Waring, Jennifer Lyons and Robin Askew of the U.S. Air Force Band from Bolling Air Force Base, D.C., perform as the “coffee shop trio” during the opening performance of the band’s musical “Born of a Dream” Nov. 18 at the Kodak Theatre in Hollywood, Calif.**

about the exploits of Gen. James “Jimmy” Doolittle and Col. Francis “Gabby” Gabreski. There was even a “rap” song about a current fictitious fighter pilot being the greatest.

There were several moments when the elderly test pilot trio, played by the not-so-elderly Tech. Sgts. Matthew Irish, Bradley Bennett and K.C. Armstrong, break into a fast-paced rock song complete with running and sliding, only to feel their age again when the song is over.

Tech. Sgt. Chris Harris and Chief Master Sgt. Patricia Wolfe performed a duet about a prisoner of war in Vietnam being separated from his wife. Master Sgt. Shani Prewitt performed a solo about her character’s grandfather fight-

ing for the opportunity to serve in World War II as a Tuskegee Airman.

Retired Maj. Gen. John Brooks; Col. Dennis Layendecker, U.S. Air Force Band commander; and Senior Master Sgt. Larry MacTaggart conceived “Born of a Dream” more than a year ago. Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper approached them for a new project honoring Centennial of Flight.

General Brooks said there were two things they were trying to use to keep the story moving: the evolution of aviation and the recognition of the significance.

“This is new territory for the Air Force band,” Sergeant MacTaggart said. “We haven’t done anything like this in the history of the group.”

# Laughlin master sergeant makes volunteering an annual event

## Uses leave to help out in Alaska, San Angelo

By Tech Sgt. Chance Babin  
*Public affairs*

For most military people, their 30 days of annual leave is usually used for things like visiting family members, taking a vacation, traveling, or just relaxing and not thinking about work.

But for a member of Laughlin Air Force Base's Fire Department, his annual leave is booked a year in advance with one thing in mind: volunteering his services as an emergency medical technician.

Although it may not be unusual for people to volunteer within their own communities, what Master Sgt. Michael Sweet does yearly could be considered "extreme volunteerism."

Sergeant Sweet, the deputy chief for Laughlin's fire department, has traveled more than 3,100 miles for the last eight years to Palmer, Alaska, to volunteer his EMT services for the Alaska State Fair, using his own money and leave time in the process.

"I used to be stationed there at Elmendorf," Sergeant Sweet said. "I taught EMT to people in the community and had volunteered with the Alaskan Professional Volunteers organization before when I was there. It's fun. It's like family there, we're all really close."

APV is a group of volunteers who provide emergency medical services coverage for different events like auto races, dogsled races and football games. The Alaska State Fair is the group's largest event. Approximately 400,000 visitors attended the two-week event that was held Aug. 19 through Sept. 2.

"We ran roughly 300 medical cases," Sergeant Sweet said. Injuries ranged from diabetic emergencies, asthma attack, cuts and burns, chest pains and a broken leg.

Other than travel arrangements, Sergeant Sweet's accommodations were on the premises at the fair.

"I lived there on fairgrounds," Sergeant Sweet said. "I slept there in the first aid station, so I was basically on 24-hour duty."

Sweet worked 12- to 16-hour shifts and was on call the rest of the time. Part of being on call meant getting up from a deep sleep to address a case.

"If you were sleeping and someone beat on the door of the first aid station, we'd get up and help him or her," he said. Sweet and four other EMTs stayed on the fairgrounds around the clock, while other volunteers rotated in and out.

In 1998, he was awarded an Outstanding Volunteer Award while stationed in Alaska. This year, the APV sent Col. Daniel P. Woodward, 47th Flying Training Wing commander, a letter of appreciation acknowledging the work Sergeant Sweet did at the fair, which was given to Sergeant Sweet at a wing staff meeting in October.

"It felt good," Sergeant Sweet said. "A lot of people don't understand or realize what I do, so it was nice to be recognized."

In addition to the nearly three weeks Sergeant Sweet spends in Alaska, he has volunteered one week every year in February for the last 15 years at the San Angelo Stock Rodeo in San Angelo.

"I split my leave doing the fair and the rodeo," he said. Sergeant Sweet got started with the rodeo when he was stationed at Goodfellow AFB. "I plan my leave around it every year." The only time he ever missed the rodeo was one year when he was deployed.

"When I lived in Alaska, I used to buy (airline) tickets to Texas," Sergeant Sweet said. "Now I live in



Photo by Airman 1st Class Timothy J. Stein

**Master Sgt. Michael Sweet, Laughlin fire department deputy chief, checks to make sure everything is in order on one of the trays on a Laughlin fire truck.**

Texas, and I buy tickets to Alaska."

Sergeant Sweet, a Washington native, said he thinks he developed his volunteer roots as a child in the Boy Scouts. "I was in the Boy Scouts, and giving back to the community was something that was always stressed."

Last year, Sergeant Sweet volunteered a total of 2,300 hours, including his work at the Alaska State Fair, San Angelo Stock Rodeo, and Special Olympics.

Locally, Sergeant Sweet volun-

teers at the Val Verde County Fire Department. In 2001, he was selected as that organization's Volunteer of the Year.

"When you are a member of a group of 50 or 60 people, a group of your peers, and they select you, it's special," he said. "It's something I can do to give back to the community. This is an excellent base to be stationed at. The people downtown really appreciate the base, and for me it's a good way to give back to the community."

# Holidays: Time to be ‘street smart’

## National Drunk, Drugged Driving Prevention Month begins

By Tech Sgt.  
Ralph Smith  
47th Medical Operations  
Squadron licensed chemical dependency counselor

December is National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month and the “You Drink and Drive, You Lose” National Mobilization.

With more people expected to travel on America’s highways during this holiday season, this could be one of the deadliest periods ever for impaired driving fatalities according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

To protect innocent drivers, NHTSA reports that local and state officials will be out in full force from Dec. 20 to Jan. 5. During this time, they will be conducting sobriety checkpoints and saturation patrols throughout the country to arrest and prosecute drunk drivers.

Violators can lose their licenses, time from their jobs, pay high fines and court costs and possibly face imprisonment for repeat offenses, intoxication assault and intoxication manslaughter.

The Texas legislature passed a new law effective Sept. 1, making it a state felony to drink and drive with a minor in the vehicle. Those who refuse a blood alcohol concentration test can lose their licenses on the spot for up to six months and have their cars impounded, whether convicted or not. So, instead of spending money on holiday gifts, they can expect to pay bail and towing fees.

After years of gradual improvement, fatalities in

alcohol-related crashes are on the rise nationally. NHTSA estimates that in 2001, 17,448 people were killed in alcohol-related crashes, which represented 41 percent of the 42,116 people killed in all traffic crashes that year.

In 2002, Texas led the nation in driving while intoxicated arrests with 90,000 individuals caught driving impaired.

Those having a hard time figuring out if they’ve had too many drinks to drive shouldn’t risk it. Impairment begins with the first drink and impaired driving is against the law.

Alcohol affects eye movement by decreasing the ability to track moving objects and maintain focus. Alcohol also shrinks peripheral vision and affects reaction time, such as taking longer to read street signs or responding to changes and obstacles in the road.

Alcohol affects the ability to perform multiple tasks simultaneously, such as staying in the driving lane while adjusting speed and direction. People tend to focus on one task at a time. For example, “OK, I’m steering ... OK, I’m going too fast ... OK, now I have to turn ... OK, the light is turning red.”

According to NHTSA, motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for military personnel. Impaired driving, not wearing seatbelts and driver fatigue are usually involved. A large number of 21- to 34-year olds comprise the armed forces, which is the age group most likely to be involved in an alcohol-related crash.

The penalties for active-duty members can

Following these tips will ensure a safe and happy holiday season:

- Don’t risk it – if you plan to drive, don’t drink.
- Choose a sober designated driver before partying.
- Take mass transit, a taxi, or ask a friend to drive you home if you didn’t plan in advance.
- Spend the night where the activity is being held.
- Report impaired drivers to law enforcement.
- If you plan on drinking and driving, ask yourself this question, “Do I have the right to take another’s life?” Think before you drink!

possibly include Article 15 punishment if arrested and convicted for drinking and driving on a military installation. Also, a commander referral to the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention and Treatment Program for evaluation and attendance of a minimum six-hour alcohol-related education class can result.

Studies from NHTSA show that nearly 97 percent of Americans view drunk driving as a major threat to the community. As a result, the majority of American’s support increased use of enforcement efforts like saturation patrols and sobriety checkpoints to protect innocent victims. Furthermore, two-thirds of Americans also strongly endorse the use of stricter and more severe penalties against drunk drivers.

The “You Drink and Drive, You Lose” National

## Chapel information



### Catholic

- Monday - Friday ● Mass, 12:05 p.m.
- Saturday ● Mass, 5 p.m., Reconciliation, 4:15 p.m. or by appointment
- Sunday ● Mass, 9:30 a.m., Religious Education, 11 a.m.
- Thursday ● Choir: 6 p.m., Rite of Christian Initiation, 7:30 p.m.

### Protestant

- Wednesday ● Choir, 7 p.m.
- Sunday ● General worship, 11 a.m., Contemporary worship, call 298-7073

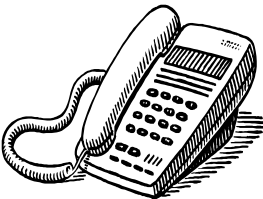
### Chaplain Staff

- Wing chaplain: Chap. (Lt. Col.) Joseph Lim, Roman Catholic
- Senior Protestant: Chap. (Capt.) Terri Gast, Presbyterian Church, USA
- Protestant: Chap. (Capt.) Alex Jack, Independent Christian Church
- Protestant: Chap. (1st Lt.) Kenneth Fisher, Evangelical Church Alliance

For more information on other denominations, chapel events or services, call 298-5111.

## Need the latest Laughlin information?

Call Laughlin's Information Line at 298-5201.



Mobilization, launched in December 1999, is a comprehensive effort focused on the deterrence of impaired driving and is designed for use by states and communities to save

lives through newspaper articles, the Internet and radio and television broadcasts. For more information about the campaign, visit NHTSA’s Web site at [www.nhtsa.dot.gov](http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov).



The *XLer*

Senior Airman Kevin Bombara  
47th Communications Squadron

**Hometown:** Washington, Pa.  
**Time at Laughlin:** One year, five months  
**Time in service:** One year, 11 months  
**Greatest accomplishment:** Taking one day at a time  
**Hobbies:** Playing and watching sports and traveling  
**Bad habit:** Chewing tobacco  
**Favorite movie:** “The Godfather”  
**Favorite musicians:** Luther Vandross and Earth, Wind and Fire  
**If you could spend one hour with any person, who would it be and why?** Either one of my grandfathers. They both were great men and very inspirational to me. I learned a lot from them and they were also good friends.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Yvonne Clark



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Robert Wieland

Load ‘em up...

Staff Sgt. Donald Jepsen loads 30 mm ammunition into an A-10 Thunderbolt II at Kirkuk Air Base, Iraq. The A-10s of the 354th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron were quickly prepared to fly missions supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom after their Nov. 22 arrival from Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz.

Air traffic controller takes weekly prize

Last week, Airman 1st Class Aaron Baccus, 47th Operations Support Squadron air traffic controller, won the weekly prize by picking 10 of 16 games correctly. Two other contestants came close by guessing nine games.

To enter the weekly contest, individuals can put their names in contest boxes located at various Services locations for a chance to forecast winners of weekly NFL football games in the Border Eagle.

Drop boxes are located at Club XL, Club Amistad, Cactus Lanes, Silver Wings and the Chaparral Dining Facility.

Weekly winners may call Andrew Furman at Club XL at 298-5134 to claim their prize.

Prizes include a free round of golf or lunch at the club.



Airman Baccus

Games:	Capt. David Fazenbaker	Master Sgt. John Rogers	Tech. Sgt. Javalle Jenkins	Senior Airman Anna Mayo	Airman 1st Class Matt Teigen
Cin. at Bal.	Baltimore	Baltimore	Baltimore	Baltimore	Baltimore
S.D. at Det.	Detroit	Detroit	San Diego	Detroit	San Diego
Chi. at G.B.	Green Bay	Green Bay	Green Bay	Green Bay	Green Bay
Hou. at Jax.	Houston	Houston	Jacksonville	Houston	Jacksonville
Sea. at Minn.	Seattle	Seattle	Seattle	Seattle	Minnesota
T.B. at N.O.	Tampa Bay	New Orleans	Tampa Bay	Tampa Bay	Tampa Bay
Wash. at N.Y.G.	Washington	New York Giants	New York Giants	Washington	New York Giants
Dal. at Phi.	Philadelphia	Philadelphia	Philadelphia	Philadelphia	Philadelphia
Oak. at Pitt.	Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh	Oakland
Ind. at Tenn.	Tennessee	Tennessee	Tennessee	Tennessee	Tennessee
Ari. at S.F.	Arizona	San Francisco	San Francisco	San Francisco	San Francisco
N.Y.J. at Buff.	New York Jets	Buffalo	New York Jets	New York Jets	Buffalo
K.C. at Den.	Kansas City	Kansas City	Kansas City	Kansas City	Kansas City
Mia. at N.E.	Miami	New England	New England	New England	Miami
Car. at Atl.	Carolina	Atlanta	Carolina	Atlanta	Atlanta
St.L. at Clev.	St. Louis	St. Louis	St. Louis	St. Louis	St. Louis

Intramural  
flag football  
standings

Eastern Conference

Team	W-L
LCSAM	8-4
87th	7-3
86th	7-4
OSS	6-5
84th/85th	0-12 (out)

Western Conference

Team	W-L
MDG	10-1
CES	6-5
LSI	6-6
MSS	1-10

Buckle your  
safety belt.

Tae Bo creator helps open fitness center

By 1st Lt. Anna Siegel  
*Air Combat Command  
Public Affairs*

LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, Va. – Pounding music, NBA-style introductions and cheers of more than 500 people accompanied the base’s 18-person fitness team as they ran onto the new basketball court recently to workout with Billy Blanks, the creator of Tae Bo.

The mix of military and civilians, spouses, children and friends turned out for what 1st Services Squadron officials called an “out-of-the box” approach to a grand opening.

“We wanted something with active participation, not just the traditional ‘cut the ribbon’ ceremony, which was done in the morning,” said Nancy Christian, the chief of marketing for the 1st SVS.

“We also wanted to celebrate fitness as a lifestyle, and Mr. Blanks promotes that kind of fitness,” she said.

Blanks, a seventh-degree black belt in Tae Kwon Do and a seven-time world karate champion, founded Tae

Bo after combining dance music and Tae Kwon Do moves for a home workout, according to the official Tae Bo Web site. He saw what it did for himself and his family, and in 1989 opened the Billy Blanks World Training Center in Sherman Oaks, Calif.

Since then, he has been traveling the world to spread his message about fitness and health, including visits to deployed troops in places like Bosnia, Kosovo, Germany and Italy.

“We do it because the armed forces serve our country, and I believe it’s an honor and my right to serve them,” Mr. Blanks said. “We want to show our appreciation and tell them ‘thank you’ for what they do for us around the world.”

The new fitness center is also home to the health and wellness center, showing the combined emphasis on fitness and wellness, which is what Blanks promotes, Ms. Christian said.

“My definition of fitness is health,” Mr. Blanks said. “Anybody can look good but be dying on the inside. It’s more about the inside than the outside.”

Most people think of fitness as a physical process, he said. He teaches people wanting to get in shape that it starts in the mind and heart. Then, success comes in other areas of their lives.

“If you say being fit is about being physical – and we are all physical people – then why isn’t the world in shape?” he asked. “It’s about mentally and spiritually being in the right place. If you can establish faith in all parts of your life, you’ll see how it enhances everything you do. And then when hard times come, you’ll know how to (get) through it.”

If people start internally, they can get their body to fall in line and then be able to do anything they want to in life, he said.

“First, they have to start talking themselves into getting into shape,” he said. “Then, you find something that you like doing. Find some music, even for five or six minutes, and create a little workout that’s comfortable for you. Soon, you will build up to a successful physical-fitness program. Find a way that makes you tick and combine that into a workout program.”